
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

FEBRUARY 13, 1863.

Read twice and referred to the Committee on Public Lands.

FEBRUARY 17, 1863.

Reported back without amendment, ordered to be printed, and recommitted to the Committee on Public Lands.

Mr. TRIMBLE, on leave, introduced the following bill:

A BILL

To reopen the land office in the Virginia military district of Ohio,
and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
3 That all bona fide entries made prior to the first day of
4 January, in the year eighteen hundred and fifty-two, in the
5 Virginia military district, Ohio, shall be carried into survey
6 and patent as in ordinary cases.

1 SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That when a patent
2 has been issued in any case in which the entry was made
3 subsequent to the first day of January, eighteen hundred and
4 fifty-two, and thus illegal, it shall and may be lawful for any
5 party litigant, seeking to set aside such patent, to introduce
6 parol testimony to establish the date of such entry.

1 SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That should a sur-
2 veyor, deputy surveyor, or other party, make return or certify
3 an entry with a date other than the true date, or shall make
4 and return any survey upon lands other than those originally
5 entered, such party shall be deemed guilty of forgery, and
6 upon conviction shall suffer the penalty fixed for such crime
7 by the laws of the State of Ohio.

1 SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted,* That in any case in
2 which a claimant may have a bona fide actual settlement
3 prior to the passage of this act, upon any vacant parcel of
4 lands in the said Virginia military district, it shall and may
5 be lawful, within three months after the passage of this act,
6 to file his declaratory statement descriptive of the said tract
7 with the register and receiver at Chillicothe, Ohio, with a
8 survey thereof, showing its connexion with the contiguous
9 surveys, and within twelve months from the passage of this
10 act shall have the right to establish the facts in regard to his
11 settlement claim by his own affidavit and that of two disin-
12 terested witnesses; and, upon the adjudication of the pre-
13 emption right of such claimant by the register and receiver,
14 the said pre-emptor shall have the right, within the period of
15 twelve months as aforesaid, to enter the vacant parcel to the
16 extent of one hundred and sixty acres, at one dollar and
17 twenty-five cents per acre, subject to the revision and final
18 decision of the supervisory authority.

1 SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted,* That the United
2 States hereby relinquish to the coterminous proprietors all
3 right, title, and interest held by them in the vacant intersti-
4 tial parcels of lands found between the existing surveys of
5 such proprietors, to be held in the proportion of the several
6 interests of the respective proprietors, but not to include or
7 interfere with any claim that may be established under the
8 fourth section of this act, this relinquishment not to take
9 effect until after the lapse of two years from the passage of
10 act.